

WISE COUNTY RICH
IN COAL AND COKE

Poor Without Railways,
But Wealthy When Lo-
comotive Whistles.

BIG STONE GAP AND
ITS BIG INDUSTRIES

The Country Only Beginning to
Be Developed—Millions of
Riches Yet to Be Dug
Out of the Earth.
Virginia's Op-
portunity.

BY WALTER EDWARD HARRIS.
[Special From a Staff Correspondent.]
BIG STONE GAP, WISE CO., VA.,
October 20.—The total production of coal
in Virginia last year was 4,275,371 short
tons. The mines of Wise county pro-
duced nearly a million tons, over half of
this total of bituminous coal mined in
the State.

This alone would indicate the great
industrial activity of the county. The
extent of the development is far greater
than its rapidly. The production of
coal in the county in 1904 was 2,359,661
short tons. In 1905 it jumped to 2,590,694
short tons, an increase of 231,033 tons
in a single year.

The total value of the bituminous coal
output of Virginia last year was \$2,777,-
225 at the mines, a fraction over 38 cents
a ton. The value of the coal mined in
Wise county last year was slightly in
excess of \$2,000,000.

The figures relating to the coal indus-
try of Wise read like a fairy story. Prior to
the opening up of this Southwest coun-
try by the extension of the Norfolk and
Western Railway to Blacksville, and down
the valley of the Clinch River, all this
country was a wilderness. It was only
recently settled, and but poorly culti-
vated, and the people were not enough
to supply the simplest needs of the inhabi-
tants. Of course, there were some in-
stances of fine farms and progressive
farming, but such exceptions only served
to accentuate the isolated condition of
the people. They were cut off from the
world, and if they knew of the wealth of
the deposits of iron and coal in the earth,
and the value of the virgin forests cov-
ering tens of thousands of acres, they were
not specially interested. They were not
in a way to get it to market. Besides, the
possibilities of development of the wealth
of Wise had not been fully appreciated.
The hardy folk who inhabited these
mountain valleys and gorges, and
they cared little beyond that which was
necessary to satisfy their daily wants.

Invigorating Sound of Whistle.

The whistle of the locomotive aroused
the dormant energies of the people. They
came to know their wealth, and oppor-
tunity to develop it was opened up with
generous outside capital began to pour
in. Mining operations soon began to dot
the mountain-sides, and long trainloads
of coal were started eastward to Lam-
buth's point, at Norfolk, and westward
to the Lakes. Since that time the coun-
try has been in a state of development
of Wise and this section. With the ex-
tension of the railroad from 1889 to 1893,
the coal production of Virginia was in-
creased by 250,000 tons. The following
year it more than doubled, being 1,125,000
tons. In 1898 it jumped to 2,250,000 tons,
in 1900 to 3,000,000 tons, in 1901 to 3,500,000
tons, in 1902 to 4,000,000 tons, in 1903 to
4,275,371 tons, in 1904 to 4,275,371 tons,
in 1905 to 4,590,694 tons, and in 1906 to
4,800,000 tons. The increase in the pro-
duction of coal in the State has been in-
creased to five million tons.

Wise as a Coke Producer.

It is claimed that Wise county is now
very nearly the first among the counties
of the United States in the production of
coke. The amount of coal which was
collected last year was 1,933,488 short tons,
and the total coal output of the county
of 2,590,694 short tons. It is not all coal
that can be made into coke, and that
which will produce coke is considered
much more valuable for that reason.
Comparatively few mines of any extent
in the county are without coke ovens, in which
the coal is "coked."

Seeking Southern Outlet.

The trend in Southern ports follows ac-
tivity in railroad construction toward
them, and the improvement of terminal
facilities. The application by the Sea-
board Air Line Railway for a franchise
to enter Charleston, S. C., suggests an
increase in that city's importance as a
port, through the construction of an ex-
tension from a point near Camden direct
to Charleston, a distance of 195 miles.
Work is to begin this fall upon a seventy-
six-mile extension of the Overton County
Railroad, from Livingston, Tenn., to
Waynes county, Ky., eight miles of oil
have been made in the past two weeks,
the best doing fifty barrels in Wolfe
county, Ky. In the same time, there were
seven strikes, averaging twenty-five bar-
rels each. In Floyd county, Va., and
Knott county, W. Va., operators are at
work, and in Barren county, Louisville
operators are testing. Thousands of
dollars are being expended weekly in
test drilling in a number of counties. A
promising lead has been gotten in Lee
county, where two others and a gasser
have been drilled. About a dozen Ohio
River counties are centres of prospect-
ing. In Tennessee an association of Jeffer-
son capitalists in meeting with success
in prospecting in the Elk Valley, and in
Dixon county Chicago operators have got-
ten such a fair production from test
drilling that they will establish a small
refinery.

Striking Oil in South.

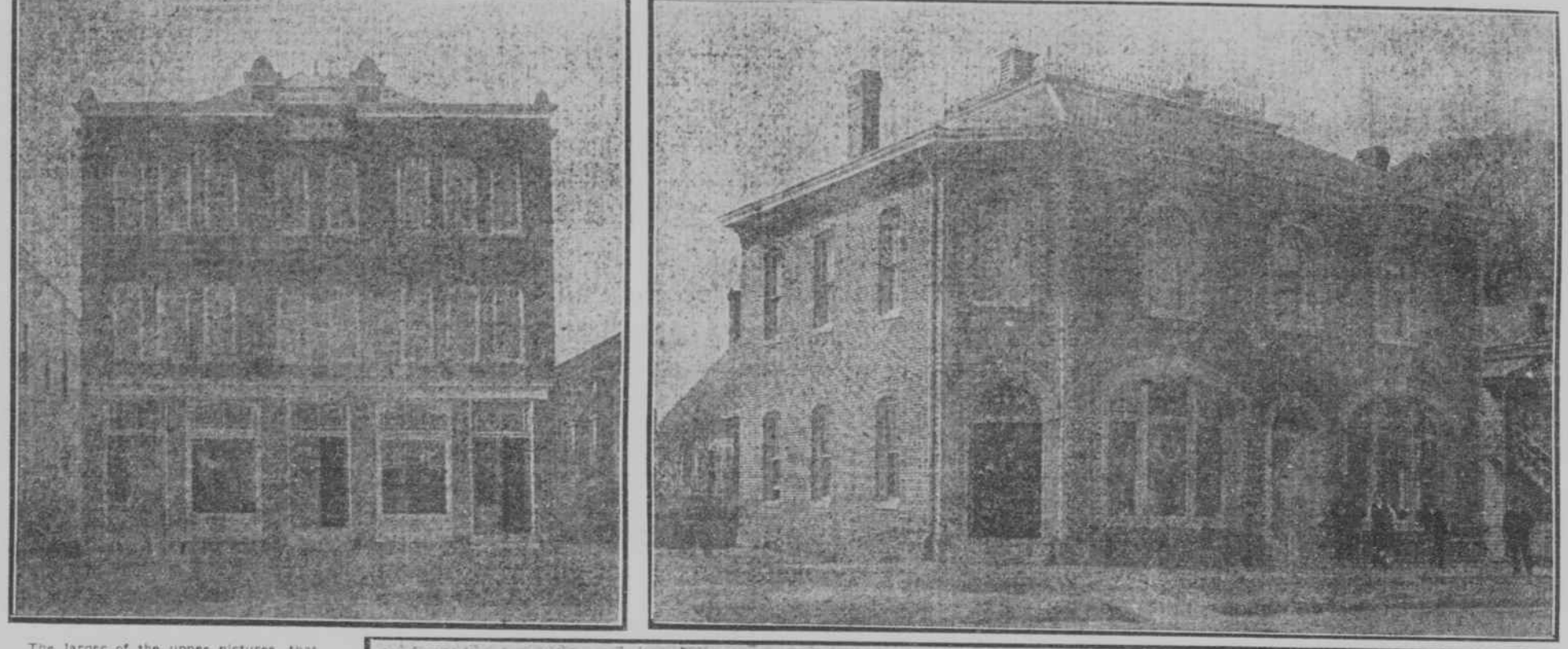
The various divisions of the Kentucky-
Tennessee fields show some good results
from the past few weeks' work. In
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Virginians Have Opportunity.

It is a source of constant regret to me
that so few Virginians have taken advan-
tage of the opportunities which this sec-
tion offered to men of means a few years
back. Coal lands have been bought out
here twenty years ago at anywhere
from a dollar to three or four dollars an
acre. It is not many years since five dol-
lars was considered a fine price. Rich-
mond capitalists were offered a chance to
gain control of the Pocahontas mines at
the time the Norfolk and Western was
built into the Fud Top country in 1882,
but they would not accept it; others took
advantage of the chance to get these

(Continued to Last Page.)

SOME OF THE IMPORTANT BUSINESS INSTITUTIONS OF WILLIAMSBURG



The larger of the upper pictures, that to the right, is the home of the L. L. Dickinson, Jr., Banking Company; that to the left is the Peninsula Bank. The lower picture is the plant of the Williamsburg Knitting Company.

RAPID GROWTH OF
SOUTHERN PORTS

General Exports Greatly Enlarged
in a Year—Newport News
More Than Doubled.

RAILWAYS HEADING SOUTH

Virginia, West Virginia and Ken-
tucky Finding Themselves Rich
in Paying Oil Wells.

FARM VALUES
IN VIRGINIA

Bulletin on Local Conditions in
States Issued by Department
of Agriculture.

WHAT CORRESPONDENTS SAY

Cupid Plays Important Part in
Affairs in Northampton
County.

REAL ESTATE AND
BUILDING NEWS

Business of Week Past Attributed
to Continued Rains, Prevent-
ing Auction Sales.

Plans Being Completed and Work
Soon to Begin on Several
Handsome Residences.

Business Fairly Good.

Merchandise business in the sale of live
poultry during the week. None of
this property, however, was high priced.
Church Hill property is in pretty active
demand, and notwithstanding the bad
trading weather several deals of greater
or less size have been made in that lo-
cality during the week. Messrs. Pollard &
Bagby sold five Church Hill houses, three
of which went to a party who bought for
investment and the other two to parties
who will reside in the houses purchased.
The sum of \$900 was realized for this
property. The same firm sold also a
house and lot in Jackson Ward to a
house and lot on North Third Street for \$600. For
reasons satisfactory to the agents, the
names of the purchasers of these prop-
erties are not given.

Suburban Business.

The rainy week past ended did not
greatly retard Glenside Park activity, and
the company made last week two good
deals to well known Richmond gentlemen.
The first, Mr. John Garfield Pollard, has
purchased on Seminary Avenue, between
Moline and Walton Avenues, immediately
to the north of the campus of the
Union Theological Seminary. Mr. Pollard
has rented a residence on Chamberlayne
Avenue, pending the building of his new
home.

Low-Priced Tobacco.

A correspondent from Halifax county
says that low-priced tobacco has kept
Halifax values down.

Stafford County.

The increase in land
values in Stafford county is not given.

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WILLIAMSBURG
NEW AND ALIVE

Ancient Capital of Vir-
ginia in Modern and
Industrial Regalia

ONCE OLD AND DEAD;
NOW YOUNG, ACTIVE

How the Venerable Burg Waked
Up and Took on Industrial Life
Young Business Men to the
Front — Banks and
Manufacturing En-
terprises.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent.)

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., October 20.

Writing from the oldest town in the State
and sitting in plain view of many evi-
dences of its great age, I could not but
be reminded of the old Colonial days,
capital and about the old Colonial days,
the last across the broad, nearly foot
Duke of Gloucester Street from where I
sit stands the old "Powder Horn" build-
ing, used for storage of ammunition in
Colonial days, and the second in the world,
a few hundred yards are the walls
of the capitol building of two hundred
and more years ago; across the street, in
another direction, is the old debtors'
prison of Colonial days; across the com-
mons, and less than a hundred yards
away, stands the ancient Executive Man-
sion, now a schoolhouse, while hard by
is the residence of George Wythe, in
which was started the first law school
in America, and the second in the world,
and in which it is said George Washington
held headquarters for quite a while in
1781, and away up at the head of the
street is a venerable William and Mary,
the oldest college in the United States
and save one, but always keeping up with
the times and recently more modernized than
ever, and made as young and vigorous
as any educational institution in the land.
And here, too, is old Bruton Church, re-
cently made over still by the touch of
art, and in its vaults are stored piles of
ancient records and mummy autographs.

All these and many other reminders of
the early days of the nation's history are
all round me here for verification, the old
capital reigned over Colonial Virginia.
And she walked in the way of England,
her mother. Now the rest of the acts
of its ancient capital, first and last, be-
long to the young men of the book of
the historians of Virginia and of America,
and verify they are recorded also in all
the magazines and all the newspapers
that have sent correspondents hither from
the time of John Smith and Pocahontas
even until this day.

This Century Williamsburg.

I intend to break the monotony and un-
rightly violate the unwritten law that
has been regarded as sacred for more
than two centuries. It is my purpose to
write from Williamsburg, somewhat of
the Williamsburg of today; the live,
energetic and strictly business, twentieth
century Williamsburg. There is much of
that kind of a town here, and it is visible
in the make-up of the city. I have been
able to discover, none of the
visiting writers of record have disclosed
it to the outside world.

It is true that for many years—yes, for
decades—Williamsburg has been a dead
town, and have its being on its an-
cient history and long departed glory, but
it is not so now. Something like a decade
ago the young men came along, and after
a strenuous existing break of the shell and
to the front. Without waiting to be
come assimilated, according to the old-
time order of things, and without allow-
ing themselves to become saturated with
the great old town life, they have spent
boldly to work to make the venerable city
a modern town, commercially speaking.

They would not destroy the Powder
Horn, the Wythe mansion, or any of
the old landmarks of the world, and
they would not live before their eyes
and remove a single brick from the sacred
place known as Old Bruton, but they are
without destroying the reminders of the sev-
enteenth and eighteenth centuries.

The Old and the New.

In the first place they obtained con-
trol of the town government, and at once
threw some life into the management as
compared with the old days. It is remem-
bered that Williamsburg was always a
dead town and was styled a city of
ghosts. Its original charter as such
was granted by the King of England in
the time of William and Mary, and later,
by George III. The town government
of Williamsburg has been a success
since the late 1800s.

The rate of taxation is now \$1.50 and
the city has not a live dollar in income,
but has made considerable improvements
in the town. The sum of \$1,000 has been spent in laying
broad granite sidewalks, and in
improving the streets, and in the
streets. This work is being done, and
will be the paving which has been
planned for shall have been completed
the end of the year. The city has
now a new and improved system of
water supply, and the old water
works have been improved. The city
has also a new and improved system
of sewerage, and the old sewerage
system has been improved. The city
has also a new and improved system
of fire protection, and the old fire
protection system has been improved.

Each week brings additional improve-
ments of this property by good people, and
it is steadily becoming more and more
substantial in character, and the im-
provements as to its future, made some
time ago, are being fully realized.
The proposition of the Glenside Park
company to further stimulate the de-
velopment of the property by the 100 acres,
through the payment of cash premiums,
has been most favorably received by them,
and some are already preparing for the
competition.

The fund thus created is to be expended
in permanent improvements. First,
the sum of \$5,000 is to go into more gran-
ite sidewalks, the sum of \$10,000 into
an electric lighting plant to furnish street
and residence lights, and the balance will
be used to macadamize the broad streets
as far as it will go. The matter of build-
ing the electric light plant is in the hands
of the Council committee, and it is con-
sidered expected that it will be in opera-

(Continued on Second Page.)